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SGWU NEWS RELEASE

NEW PATENTS POLICY AT S.G.W.U.

Sir George Williams University has embarked on a policy of giving strong encouragement to its member-inventors to obtain patents on their inventions.

The university will now share in rights to inventions developed on its premises, and will give Canadian firms first opportunity to develop the new ideas.

Principals underlying the new Policy and Procedures on Inventions and Patents state: "A country's inventions and patents are part of that country's wealth.... It is in the national interest... that patenting of inventions be set in motion before prior publicity destroys the value, and even the possibility, of patenting.... The University has the responsibility to encourage invention and to make the results thereof available to the society which supports it."

A university Inventions and Patents Committee has been established to implement the new policy. Its chairman is James G. Dick, professor of chemistry and acting chairman of the department; other members are J. Clair Callaghan, dean of engineering; Morne P. du Plessis, professor of mechanical engineering; Paul Fazio, chairman of civil engineering; J.E. Skinner, v-p personnel, Bell Canada; and Roger H. Verschingel, acting dean of science. So far the committee has dealt with several inventions and patentable situations, the majority associated with local industry.

Professor Dick pointed out that the committee will provide faculty members with a patent service which can be easily used without much effort; in many cases it will improve chances of an invention being exploited commercially by agreement with Canadian Patents and Development Limited. He sees this clarification of the university patent situation as important to negotiations with industry and government for future research funds.

- 30 -

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Note: More from Prof. Dick at 879-4161.